

209

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

This material contains information affecting the National Defense of the United States within the meaning of the Espionage Laws, Title 18, U.S.C. Secs. 793 and 794, the transmission or revelation of which in any manner to an unauthorized person is prohibited by law.

~~SECRET~~

25X1

COUNTRY	USSR (Azerbaydzhanskaya SSR)	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Observations on the Soviet-Iranian Border	DATE DISTR.	2 December 1958
		NO. PAGES	1
		REFERENCES	RD

DATE OF
INFO.
PLACE &
DATE ACQ.

SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

2. For the most part these reports described the routine daily activities of Soviet military and civilian personnel on the Soviet-Iranian border. In addition, observations of Soviet aircraft crossing the border were mentioned. Also included are:

- a. A report of 15 June 1958 which described the increase of Soviet construction activity in Astara during 1957 and 1958, as well as some suggestion at the possible formation of partisan groups.
- b. A report of 23 June 1958 and one of 20 February 1957 which referred to possibilities of rocket activity near Masjed Mahaleh (sic) and Soviet Arjovan (possibly Archevan), respectively.
- c. A report of 7 July 1958 which described the handing over in Astara of nine U.S. Air Force men who had been taken prisoner in Armenia.

STATE	X	ARMY/EV	X	NAVY	X	AIR	X	FBI	AEC						
(Note: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#".)															

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

SF

Information about the

places:

25X1

17 February 1957 - The taking away of traps:

The Soviets had built traps in the Astaratchai border line, in a distance of 20 meters along the barbed wires, wherein they caught the flocks crossing the border places. When the animal was caught, the frontier official made a request and the Soviets released the animal. The existence of such traps in a distance of 3 to 10 meters of the border, create great difficulties. If the Soviets minded the existence of a certain village, they made pressures by this means and destroyed their flocks. It sometimes happened that 30 cows, horses and sheep were caught by such traps, during one day. Such matters have been reported to the Centre. But since the Border Commission has started to work, there were no animals caught by traps in this area; although the flocks wander over the border, but they are no more caught by traps. It seems that the Soviets have taken them away.

25X1

25X1

Observations of 18, 19 February and 17, 16 and 15 February 1957:

on 18 February at 0800 hours, a two-engine Soviet plane has been flying at a height of 500 meters along the frontier area. The plane was of the Poli-carev type. It turned twice above Soviet Astara and then flew toward the west. On 17 February this plane was seen in the frontier area at 0700 hours. On 17 February two trucks with 30 women and 2 men, drove to Alashah from the middle way of Astara. They returned at 1400 hours. In the afternoon, 3 Soviet officers, one of them carrying a notebook, were visiting the new dam being built by the Soviet laborers in the area of Farzi-golee. Further observations consisted only of the traffic and carrying of stones and other building material for the dam.

25X1

It is reported from Languebies and Atutan that on 15 and 16 February, 3 Soviet officers and 3 sergeants who were going for visiting the stations of Malajord and Qarabeik (Station No. 1 and No. 2) returned. On 17 February 6 Soviet soldiers were cleaning the stations the Soviets had recently built at the mountain's foot. Later they brought some wood from the Rezabaqui station (Station No. 11) to this station. In this area the Soviets patrol at 4 or 5 persons. In the evening the sound of a machine gun reached the frontier people's ears.

25X1

On 11 February at 1400 hours the Soviet soldier who is stationed in the observatory opposite Rudekenar descended the observatory, prevented 2 Soviet fishermen who were fishing from doing so till they paid him some bribes. He remained there until the two fishermen caught 3 fishes and returned to Rudekenar. Then he returned to his place.

25X1

25X1

[redacted] there are many ducks in the dead waters of the Sendjedee village in the Bandsar district. Also there are ducks and geese in the Rudekenar-olia area. The Soviet frontier officers took advantage of the animals' existence and go hunting. They then carry their prey back on motorcycles. There is no authorization for the frontier kolkhoz and civilian people to hunt, at the time being.

[redacted] the fishermen are not allowed to fish in the Astaratchai river at present. This authorization is probably being given in the beginning of March. Fishing is actually done only by the station officials or by people who are granted a special authorization. Fishing lasts only for a few hours. The frontier people are living mostly on the fish, beside their rations. The price for one Qotum fish is 15 ruble-s. 25X1

Observation of 18, 19 and 20 February 1957:

On 19 and 20 February, 15 Soviet workers speaking Turkish with a Talysh dialect, and were from Tavalesh-Lankaran, were building on the dam site opposite the [redacted] which is known under the name [redacted]. The dam is built in the shape of a pyramid. At 1700 hours 2 Soviet officers and 2 engineers came by car No. B from Astara and visited this dam. After having given orders they returned. 25X1

[redacted] on 20 February at 1530 hours a grey dust was seen on the sky over Soviet Arjovan, supposedly caused by a rocket. This dust was seen moving in serpentine. [redacted] side were watching it. At 1540 hours a rocket was thrown toward that dust and then a shine was seen and the dust changed the direction and proceeded toward the sea. At this time, (Col) TEYFURI and (Col) BEHZAD-AFSHAR (members of Iranian Border Commission), took photos of this view. Many people said that this dust was coming from the Bezepouska Artillery, which threw rockets in the air. Some others say that direction showing rockets were sent and presented such views. At the same time, at 1100 hours, one rocket, moving like a plane, was thrown from the west mountains of Astara toward the sea, parallel to the [redacted] Soviet border. This rocket, looking like a star, fell into the sea and disappeared but some peasant say that these rockets have been thrown by the Americans. At any case, the Soviet activities during the last 24 hours have been very intensive and they search about the appearing of the rockets. 25X1

SECRET

25X1

Observations of 1, 2, 3 and 4 March 1957:

It is reported from Pole Marz and Gomrok that on 3 March a Soviet motorboat lost its route and traversed the water border line with 2 Azerbaydzhan passengers in. They were about to enter [redacted] land opposite the [redacted] Health Department when the [redacted] frontier officials wanted to seize them. They immediately drove to the sea and they were not followed. As people state, the [redacted] did not work well, otherwise they would have caught them. This matter has been reported to Colonel SIMONOV. It is also learned that the Soviet motorboats which carry the fishermen from place to place are equipped with new automatic arms.

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

It is reported from Pole Marz and Heidarmahale that on 4 March a great number of Iranian fishermen were submitting protests to the [redacted] frontier officials about the Soviets fishing in the delta during nighttime. And they prevent the fishes' coming up. After conversations made, it was decided that the [redacted] open the delta. At 1000 hours 40 [redacted] workers with 3 soldiers under the order [redacted] Commander of Squadron, the delta was visited. After having worked for half an hour, 5 Soviet soldiers under the command of Lt. Col. SIMONOV, the frontier officer of Astara [redacted] and (Capt.) KULIKOV, Chief of No. 18 station, were preventing the continuation of work. The Soviet soldiers were threatening the [redacted] workers with their arms. As the [redacted] soldiers did nothing to defend, the workers fled and returned [redacted] This situation lasted for half an hour, and as the [redacted] brought in 2 army groups for enforcement, the Soviets brought 45 soldiers and stationed them opposite the Health Department. Then Capt. KULIKOV said that if you advance, you all shall be killed and the responsibility is on the [redacted] frontier officer. At 1400 hours, the Soviet frontier officer, (Col.) KHARIN arrived with 2 Lt. Colonels and a Major and it was decided that the delta be opened by both parts, [redacted] the Soviets, in order to end this difference. And finally, the [redacted] opened the delta at 1800 hours.

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

At 0800 hours a mail plane was seen over Astara. After 5 minutes it flew toward Lankaran. At 1100 hours another plane was seen which was a war plane and flew along the frontier. Perhaps this plane came for help to the soldiers having been ordered to defend the delta.

[redacted] on 5 March at 1600 hours 5 Soviet officers came to the river side and watched the fishermen. One of the officers was a non-frontier officer and they looked as unaware of the area and having come recently. They returned after 10 minutes.

25X1

25X1

Observations and information of June 22, 23, 24, & 25, 1958

[redacted] on June 22nd. three trucks with no more than 60 soldiers in them, some with red shoulder straps and wearing hats with brims, went towards Rezabaghi from the direction of Leji on the newly constructed road. At 19:00 hours one truck was in Zardali Post and the rest were in Baghchelar woods. Most of these were youths of about 20 years. From 21:00 hours of this day to 23:00 hours reports of rocket fire, machine gun fire were heard and tracing rockets were seen. Nothing was seen on the 23rd. of June. Once again on the same night at 23:00 and 24:00 hours these nightly operations were resumed. From this it was learned that the said soldiers were in three points of Baghchelar woods which tower above [redacted] border road and are points of strategical importance. Such operations are called by some of the friends as border manoeuvres. On this same date a Soviet Officer and two soldiers were chasing back into [redacted] cows and their calves. They were finally successful in this. There was silence on June 24 and only reports of light machine gun fire were heard.

Report from Minavar region says that on June 23rd. two soldiers with green shoulder straps were preparing the shooting range for practice and were erecting targets of black color looking like the silhouette of a man. They worked until 19:00 hours.

At 14:00 hours they had no shirt on. At noon soldiers in this region rest under wire net covered area of Leji post. Sometimes they read books.

On June 25th. a Soviet plane of Taplov type was seen flying parallel to the border above Isa Seifi woods. It was very far and could not be recognized in detail.

[redacted] the Border officer of Astara and Namin are to close down the tea shop of Bohlul located on Hiran Pass- Namin road. Evidently during recent years this teashop was on the route of those going to Soviet Union. Border officer is now studying this instruction.

According to the report from Hiran pass, Sula and Arpa Tapesi in the year 1337, no

SECRET

25X1

one has been able to pass over to the Soviet Union thru the secret passes of Hiran Pass, Bohlul teashop, Khaneqah, Sula and Minavar.

25X1

at 6:30 of June 22 a plane of Pulikarov type was flying at an elevation of less than 500 meters and some of the peasants saw its pilot.

On June 23, 1958 7 soldeirs and one officer were repairing the plowed land in the area of Masjed Mahaleh and were installing certain objects under the props of barbed wires at the restricted region. Some say that these were rockets.

At 12:00 hours of this day a young boy brought a basket full of cucumbers. Said officer gave one to each of the soldiers and they rested under the wires.

On June 24th. a plane of white color which could not be distinguished was seen flying at a distance of 6 Kilometers from the border and perpendicular to the border ~~border~~ line.

25X1

At 11:00 hours of June 25th. two truckloads of ten soldiers, some kerosene barrels, several men and women and some beds and commodities were going from Masjed Mahaleh to Astara.

25X1

Traffic and aactivity has consisted of soldiers on Patrol duty only during these recent days .

25X1

SECRET

SECRET

June 15, 1958.

25X1

Rumors and reports at Soviet territory

[redacted] the Soviets have summoned to the head quarters of brigades and regiments a number of civilians. These civilians are considered for use against any occupation forces of foreigners in cases of necessity. During the second World War Partisan regiments were formed who served in partisan warfare against the Germans. They were able to fight in mountainous regions and hold back the enemy. [redacted]

25X1

National Resistance Movement are getting ready to fight in cases of necessity against Atomic and Hydrogen bombs. At such times the non-military will be directed elsewhere and told to take cover. Up to this hour no one has been summoned (to such purpose) at the Soviet border and traffic is as usual.

25X1

Constructions at Astara and at Kolkhoz establishments.

25X1

In the years 1945- 6- and 7 there were no modern constructions in Astara of the Soviets. Houses occupied by government organizations and the people were all old houses. However since the year 1957 and in 1958 a large number of modern buildings including houses, military quarters, clubs, schools, theater house have been built which look good from the distance. Formerly Post Number 17, used by the soldiers, was small. Recently at least ten new buildings have been built, some of which are ~~are~~ yet not finished. In these ~~area~~ government employees work. Formerly there was no outstanding building in the region of Kalvaz. In the year 1950 a building for the commanders office was started. Now another is being built for the border patrol and its soldiers. Buildings are also being constructed in other regions of Moghan border region.

SECRET

Bathing in the river and sea by Soviet soldiers.

25X1

According to the report received from friends, Soviet border Patrol soldiers go to

~~SECRET~~

25X1

bath as the instructions of border officials direct them to. Recently some of the soldiers have been seen bathing in the river between 14, 15 and 16:00 hours. Some go to the sea shore to bathe. It is obvious that they have worked and have to wash off their perspirations. In some of the posts soldiers of 20 years of age are seen,

25X1

~~SECRET~~

NOFORN CONTROLLED DATA

25X1

[REDACTED]

On June 26th. Soviets were building an iron observation tower opposite of Aqchay village. They had brought to the site iron bars and beams for it, but they started to work on this date. Now there are 5 solderis and one sergeant with khaki color shoulder straps with an officer seen sometimes working on this tower.

This post set up close to the border road of Ardebil no further than a hundred meters has caused concern and anxiety, because in this region Soviets^{would formerly} let their soldiers take cover under the trees at this sensitive point and then these would go on observation duty. Now they have an iron tower from which to watch [REDACTED]

25X1

[REDACTED] this post is so located that it can maintain close watch on all cars coming from the road turn at Aqchay. Sometimes cars belonging to [REDACTED] foreigners stop at Aqchay because there are offices of the Red Lion and Sun and officials of the municipality there. Thus the Soviets who are on observation duty can even note [REDACTED] persons who are in the cars. No doubt the only reason why this post has been set up is to do such watching as there is nothing of importance on this side of the border to watch except a half platoon of soldiers and few shops.

25X1

25X1

25X1

On June 27 a Soviet plane of small size with little noise was seen flying above Anvaz heights. This plane was of the color of pigeon. No one but a few donkey men from Namin saw this plane.

On June 26, 1958 [REDACTED] two being warrant officers and others being privates were seen passing in this region. Members of the [REDACTED] were also seen passing about. [REDACTED]

25X1

25X1

On June 27th, three Soviet Soldiers wearing hats which had brims, were seen one

[redacted]
under the observation tower and the other two oiling the tower bases. They worked until 14:00 hours. Now the bases of this tower shine. These bases have been oiled so that they may not rust.

25X1

On June 28, 1958 a truck with 10 soldiers in it and later two trucks of BQ type with civilians in it were going east from west. Soviet rice plantations are very good in this region. [redacted] in this region have been vaccinated. This is guessed from the gathering at Rud Kenar on June 28th.

25X1

[redacted]
On June 27, 1958, a car of Gazz make with two officers in it were inspecting the area and compound of Qizil Asar post. At night three rockets were fired. Zis trucks pass the newly built road.

25X1

SECRET

25X1

SECRET

Observations of July 17, 18, 19, & 20, 1958.

25X1

25X1

[redacted] from 9:00 to 12:00 hours of July 17, reports
&
of hand grenades, Tommy gun fire were heard at Kalvaz post region. When this ended
another group (or platoon) of soldiers were getting training in field operations
under the supervision of one officer and 6 sergeants. They were opposite the village
of Aq-Bolaq.

In the morning of July 18, one plane was seen above the heights of Chichkalu hill.
In the region between landmark # 114 Soviets have repaired some of the wooden props
and have brought additional props from Lirik region to this area.

At the opposite border soldiers are on the alert at nights. Also soldiers at the
[redacted] border are on the alert.

25X1

On July 17th. Soviets took out to graze in the hills around Kalaputi 44 sheep of
this village which was kept in quarantine at the Animal Husbandry Collective center.
[redacted] officials have asked for payment to cover fodder. [redacted] villagers at the
border are vexed with the Soviets and continue to write petitions to the Border Pat-
rol command.

25X1
25X1

On July 18 and 19, three truckloads of food supplies, 20 soldiers and with barbed
wire passed in this region.

Grass at the border regions of Kolesh - Anbaran, and Mirzaneq which need to be sold
have not as yet been given to any party.

25X1

From 17:00 to 21:00 hours of July 18, whistle of the train was heard four times.
Since trains at Soviet Astara railways station were a cause for concern, sergeants
at various posts were told to climb trees to watch this traffic and the report
came as a result that there has occurred no change in the number of border unit

25X1

SECRET

soldiers.

25X1

Soviet planes flew over [] at 14:15, 9:00 and 17:00 hours.

25X1

On July 18 a Soviet Jet plane of Tu-104 type passed [] on its way to [] at 10:40 hours. The plane came from Baku and by the permission of General Hedayat. It had changed its flight hour from 6:00 A.M. to 10:40 hours.

25X1

On July 19, at 5:00 A.M. four Soviet ships two being barges (Barkas) equipped with coastal guns and machine guns were at the old pier of Astara. In the morning

[] border soldiers were somewhat concerned over this. However it was learned

25X1

that one of the barges carry cattle and one is not armed. It is not where the cattle were being taken to. At 12:00 and 17:00 hours once more whistles from trains could be heard. All [] soldiers of the border Patrol and those on observation duty are on the alert 24 hours a day.

25X1

On July 19 about 8 old model trucks and thirteen carts were carrying men, women, soldiers, a number of chairs, some beds, rocks and grass on the border road of Masjed Mahaleh to Astara.

At 18:00 hours 1st. Lt. Griбанov commander of post number 17 was at the observation tower watching the [] border for 20 minutes.

25X1

Considerable anxiety on behalf of Soviets on the other side of the border is noted and it seems that there are some movements amongst soldiers at the opposite border. During border visits Soviet officials are not jovial as they used to be and look reserved. However there is no change in the number of soldiers at the posts.

Report from Baghe Sirius says that on July 18, 19, and 20 the loudspeaker at the Soviet Masjed Mahaleh was broadcasting propaganda against the []

25X1

[] At 9:00 &

at 15:00 hours a number of Kolkhoz people of this region were assembled at points where loudspeakers are installed and from many cigarettes smoked it seemed that the morale of the people was very bad and they were afraid because of the arrival of

25X1

[] forces in Turkey. These people have seen how [] fight in the years

25X1

25X1

SECRET

~~SECRET~~

25X1

[REDACTED]

On July 20th. training given to 20 soldiers continued at Qapchimahaleh Post and Patrol activities were as usual.

25X1

[REDACTED]

On July 19th, 5 Soviet soldiers all without shirts, two armed with Tommy guns were repairing the barbed wire. They were plowing the land by the wire and were setting up something. It can not be said for certain that these were mines. On this day smoke from Soviet trains were seen above Qaleh heights, but the cargo could not be seen.

On this day two trucks, one Georky car, one ambulance and five motorcycles were seen moving on this road.

On the afternoon of this there were three on observation duty at the Soviet post one of whom was a sergeant.

Before noon of July 20th. conditions were normal and in the afternoon a cart carrying five soldiers, one woman, two children of officers arrived at the Post from Soviet Astara. The Soviet 1st. Lt. came to the gate, picked his child and kissed him and took him in.

At 15:00 hours part of the sides of the post and the door were ~~picked~~ painted. On the door it is written in Russian 19.S3 (or 19.53)

At 18:00 hours 7 soldiers were catching fish. 5 soldiers hastily swam at Astara Am-lak river and went back to the post. In this region also there is no increase of soldiers on Patrol Duty. It can be even said that they are ~~more~~ active, as before.

25X1

[REDACTED]

8 soldiers who had no shirt on were widening the road opposite Vanabin, Baghchelar, Rezabaghi. They have been working since ten days ago having pitched their tents at Zardali post. [REDACTED]

25X1

On July 18th. one officer and two soldiers wearing hats with brims, and officer

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

25X1

[redacted] wearing a hat with green band were watching the [redacted] border. Then they went towards their landmark number 131.

Four kerosene barrels and a number of canned food cases came to this post.

Soviet soldiers on patrol duty have in some cases mouthpieces (or earphones) in their bags together with 3 or four 32 shell clips for their Tommy guns.

On July 19th. there was no activity but the roar of a plane which could not be seen by [redacted] border inhabitants.

25X1

On the night of the 20th. of July there was a rocket fired of red color. In this area border soldiers are not changed in their number and there is no activity.

Report from Ardebil says that due to the present situation some of the landowners are selling their houses and furniture and moving south [redacted]

25X1

On complete battalion arrived at Ardebil with artillery and tanks from Kurdistan as reinforcement. The city of Ardebil had been evacuated recently from soldiers and now it is again reinforced.

~~SECRET~~

25X1

SECRET

[REDACTED]

25X1

Observations of June 26- June 29, 30, and July 1, 1958

[REDACTED]

25X1

[REDACTED]

Every day thousands of people come to watch Soviet ships dredging the port.

Some of the border officers of Hasan Kiadeh and Hashtpar leave their posts to come and watch these ships working, or come to have a good time in Pahlavi.

[REDACTED]

25X1

Fishing has been forbidden since a week ago. There are only a few at each of the Fisheries. They are closing their accounts as an accounts statement needs to be drawn up by June 30, 1958. It is said that [REDACTED] the Head of Fisheries in the North is not in full command of his office and persons around him who are suspected elements twist him around their fingers.

25X1

[REDACTED]

25X1

On June 26 a Soviet plane was flying at the border region. Not much border activity is noted in this area. There are some trucks who carry food and fodder.

At Qarebig and Malayurd several Soviet soldiers are cutting grass from border regions which passed into the hands of the Soviets recently.

[REDACTED]

such grass be sold to 25X1

[REDACTED]

farmers and local landowners. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

On June 29th. twenty Soviet military horses which were small were lead by five border soldiers from Korpipost towards the mountains, at 6:00 A.M.

25X1

On this same date an officer was talking to 12 soldiers who were assembled around

SECRET

~~SECRET~~

25X1

[REDACTED]

It was learned that some of the soldiers at this post have been changed and they are now being instructed and trained, and shown around. These soldiers are all thin and are of Russian race.

25X1

[REDACTED]

At night soldiers at this post swim in the river.

25X1

[REDACTED]

On June 30th. at 20:00 hours a film was shown to the soldiers at this post and about 30 men and women. The film unit left for Astara on the same night.

25X1

On this day a truckload of Kolkhoz people were at Achena ? canal and were digging the canal. They expressed their anger over their belief that [REDACTED] were stealing water for their farms.

25X1

On July 1 two Soviet Soldiers were repairing land mark number 140.

On this date one officer went to the observation post and watched the area [REDACTED] for ten minutes. Then he went along with a soldier ~~he went to the observation post~~ from the observation tower to inspect the border line. Since June 28 there have been some ~~xx~~ repairs at the border line using barbed wire props that look like this [REDACTED]

~~SECRET~~

25X1

[REDACTED] 25X1

Observations of July 3, 4, 5, and 6, 1958.

[REDACTED] 25X1

On July 3rd. at 5:00 A.M. A soviet plane of Pulikarov type was flying above the border line.

At 11:00 about 50 soldiers were swimming in the sea. In the afternoon two officers in summer wear like American coats each with a " neckband " were fishing. At 16:00 hours two officers, and a sergeant and three soldiers were also fishing with nets. They were armed with rifles when fishing.

At 10:00 hours of July 4 a Soviet reconnaissance plane was above the border.

Three B P trucks, two motor cycles, and six jeeps of Gaaz I type arrived at Astara. Later one bus ~~XXXX~~ left for Lankaran. Traffic in vehicles and individuals has decreased. On warm days patrolmen without dogs. It seems that these dogs can not stand warm weather.

On this day a Soviet small ship was in anchor at a distance of 100 meters. Ten navy soldiers came out of the ship and went ashore. Then a B P truck brought straw and delivered it to the ship. At 18:00 hours another ship was seen in the horizon. The first ship carried the cargo of straw to Lankaran, probably for the cavalry units there. 25X1

On this day 5 trucks were carrying grass from the border line from 14:00 to 18:00 hours. Soldiers wear no coats while in their headquarter yard. On this day Lt. Col. Vashutin the assistant Border Commander came to the border bridge [REDACTED] [REDACTED] to discuss irrigation at the border and the use of water [REDACTED] 25X1

On July 6th. eight officers and 33 soldiers both from the border units and non border units were cleaning and levelling the ~~road~~ border bridge road to the part east of the barracks. It was rumored on this day that the Soviets intend to deliver 9 Americans who were arrested in Soviet Armenia from the border at Astara and for this reason the roads were cleaned up . **SECRET**

25X1

Also at this point a small W.C. was built at the border bridge by the Soviet so that this ~~road~~ ^{can} be used during border visits.

On this date one Gaaz car, two Ziis trucks, one Moscovitch car came to the border bridge and these continued to go back and forth. At night Soviet searchlight lighted the sea and the Iranian shores from 22:00 hours to 4:00 A.M. Less rockets are fired in this region than before. At 21:00 hours of this two bursts of Tommy gun fire were heard at the Rud Kenar region.

25X1

On July 5th. when Soviet soldiers went on duty there were no dogs along with them. They have not been using dogs during the last two days. This is due to hot weather. On this date at 16:00 hours three soldiers two with Tommy guns and one with a rifle all with hats having brims cleaned out the area around the concrete pillbox. They worked here for two hours. Then one of them talked on an earpiece with some other center.

On July 6th. a truckload of soldiers and then three truckloads of civilians were going ~~for~~ towards Masjed Mahaleh. Obviously they were celebrating a marriage.

25X1

At noon of July 5th. a Soviet ambulance came to the said post. It returned later.

At 13:00 hours 6 Soviet soldiers were ~~fishing~~ at the small river swimming.

On this day 15 Soviet workers were working on the concrete dam under the supervision of engineer Aqaov. In this region which was under discussion by J-2 and the Border officers of Iran the Soviets have built a dam looking like an obtuse angle. Now due to the delay in rainfall they are doing more work on it. On July 6 the Soviet 1st. Lt. had a uniform on looking like summer uniform. He came to the border with two soldiers and returned one horse and two cows. Although soldiers have set up a barbed wire barrier yet cattle can pass it.

25X1

25X1

At 17:00 hours of July 6 there was ~~xx~~ a volley ball game in Qapchi Mahaleh post.


[REDACTED]

25X1

Observations are limited in this season due to trees and forests.

[REDACTED]

25X1

On July 5th. and 6th. a Soviet tractor and three soldiers and one sergeant were smoothing up the plowed land. They were also repairing and inspecting barbed wires which were stretched on props of this shape  .

At present activity in this region has been reduced and there are less rockets being fired.

[REDACTED]

25X1

SECRET

[REDACTED] 25X1
Observations of July 6, 7, 8, & 9, 1958.

[REDACTED] 25X1
On the nights of the 6th. and the 7th. of July Soviet searchlights both from the sea and from land lighted the area of Archevan village, and the region east of Soviet Astara and the seashore regions. 25X1

In Astara city is said that on July 8th. nine U.S. pilots who had to land in Armenia were delivered to Col. Baska, American advisor, by the Soviets. People at the border region learned of this thru the press on July 9th. It is quite surprising why these were returned at the border at Astara.

[REDACTED] 25X1
Report of July 6th. says that during the said day three truckloads of food items, cattle and Soviet soldiers went from Qarebig to Malyurd. They delivered their provisions to Malayurd Post. On July 7 a car with several officers and a woman left towards Qarabig from the direction of Lengehbiz and went opposite At-Tutan. During the months of June and July there was no considerable activities going on in this region.

[REDACTED] 25X1
On July 8th. five soldiers and three dogs and later with one officer were in the area south ~~in~~ of the newly built Baghchelar post and were practicing. Later the wife of the border post officer came and his wife showed that she was afraid of dogs. On this night four rockets were fired and then light machine gun ~~submachine~~ fire were heard together with special rockets. These were in the west part of Shendan Qalesi.

On July 9th about 200 sheep and ~~xx~~ cattle were taken from Rezabaghi towards Leji, by Kolkhoz people on shepherd duty. They will get to Leji and Isa Seyfi at 20:00 [REDACTED] 25X1

25X1

SECRET

On this day a Soviet officer was talking to ten soldiers.

25X1

from
On July 7th. 22 soldiers and workers and some engineers ~~with~~ three tents which they had pitched by Zardali post left going towards the mountain opposite of Chenarak. Some had carpenters saw in their hands. They were widening the road. At presents tents are where they were before and the widened parts of the road are not seen .

On July 8th. at 7:00 A.M. a Soviet plane type not recognized was flying above the border line. Above Tango heights? said plane took to a higher altitude and went north. Since there is no booklet giving the types of planes our friends can not recognize various types of planes.

25X1

On the night of July 9th. Soviet searchlights at land and sea crisscrossed in the air. Soviets have sent new searchlights to the border and military centers and they continue to light the air with them.

25X1

SECRET

25X1

[REDACTED]

Observations of July 16, 17, 18, and 19th. 1958.

25X1

[REDACTED]

On July 16 a Soviet plane twine engined, of Pulikarov and Ilyushin type was seen flying beyond the border three times. At night new Soviet searchlights light the air both from the land and the sea and keep a watch.

At 8:00, 12:00 and 19:00 hours of July 16 and 17th. the train between Baku, Astara and Lankaran was going back and forth all the time. Whistle could be heard [REDACTED]

It seems that the train schedule has changed and there is more traffic. However it seems that the train is not used for soldiers and border patrol units because there is no change in the number of Border Patrol soldiers and in the posts.

[REDACTED] the train is used to take back and forth students and Scouts who come every summer to Lankaran warm waters from Siberia and Caucasia.

25X1

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] 8 students from Ardebil wealthy families drowned in Shurabil pit of Ardebil. Mourning on this occasion and because of

the month of mourning .

25X1

There are many rumors on the arrival of [] Forces ~~next~~ at []

[] Some suspect that a condition like that of Shahrivar 1320 (Sept. 1941) 25X1
may come to prevail [] Others say that this is not probable because the ~~Soviets~~ 25X1
Soviets are now busy inside with their own troubles due to the cliques of Bulganin,
Stalin, Molotov, and Khrushchev and Malenkov. Conditions are much worse than what
they were in the years 1945 and 1946 and if there ever be a War the Soviets will
burst from inside.

[] 25X1
About 10 Soviet soldiers and three mounted ones went on July 16th. to Gazma Dagesi
to practice shooting. They returned at 18:00 hours. It seems that there are some
new soldiers at this post who need practice. New soldiers are of yellow hair and
blue eyes. On 17th. of July at 6:00 in the morning a car with several in it arrived
at Shelehjuran post and then went towards Kalvaz. At this region Soviet officers
were inspecting soldiers on duty. This car was seen in front of Buzarjomehri post
at Kalputi post on July 17th.

Report from Gilehdeh and Aqchay says:

On July 16th. the construction of the new metal observation tower was completed
and every day there are two soldiers who go to the tower at 5:30 with their obser-
vation notebook and work there. From this tower all that ~~pass~~ pass [] roads 25X1
can be seen especially as there are several turn which cause passing cars to slow
up.

On July 18th. from 15:00 to 18:00 hours telephone posts were inspected and their
insulators were changed.

On this day 7 trucks carried cattle and fodder over the road . These are old vehicles 25X1
which sometimes can not ~~drive~~ []

SECRET

21:00 hours of July 12, 1958

Very interesting

Visit between Col. Baska Air Attache and Ivanov and Petrov in Soviet Astara

As reported before at the time the nine U. S. Citizens were delivered to Col. Baska there were two Soviet political members who were introduced as Ivanov and Petrov. Although formalities were performed under the direction of Lt. Col. Kuzmin yet these two made decisions and ordered what needed to be done. Lt. Col. Kuzmin introduced the two as advisors to the border office at Lankaran and under the names of Ivanov and Petrov and said that these two worked under his direction in Lanakaran. Even American officers knew that it was not so and these two are high officials of the Soviet Union who decide on all things with regard to the delivery.

It is known that often Soviet officers at the border introduce persons whom they want not recognized as Ivanov or Petrov. At one time Iranian border officers Col. Ruhi and Col. Azmin said that they were surprised to find so many Ivanovs and Petrovs in the Soviet Union.

Looking at the Soviet magazine Aqaynuk (OZOUK) issue of April 1958, number 15 it seems that these two are Ikhfeld and Enutin both political officials of the rank of minister who work at the following addresses.

Ikhfeld, Deputy to the President of the U.S.S.R. in Moscow at the presidium. He attends congress meetings, and his position is that of a minister.

Enutin, Head of Inspection Committee of the Soviet Ministry who is in charge of all inspections and has the rank of a minister and attends congress meetings.

As is evident from Soviet press these two are quite like the two introduced as Ivanov and Petrov. The sum of 30,000 Reubles required by Moscow as expenditure was noted in the protocols by them.

SECRET

~~SECRET~~

25X1

Observations of July 20, 21, 22

sent

On July 21, a group of Soviet Soldiers few of whom equipped with shovels were going from the direction of Monafyeri towards Shendan Qalesi. On the way they met a car in which there were several soldiers. Officers came out of the vehicle and instructed the soldiers how to repair and extend the road at Shendan Qalehsi region. On this day at 16:30 a plane of Illushin type was seen flying at a height of 1000 meters above the border.. This plane was at a distance of 40 Kilometers. In this region activities and passage of Border Patrol units has increased to some extent.

On the evening of July 20th. a truck of perhaps Gaz type arrived at Alasha post from Astara with a cargo which was not known. Perhaps it brought food items and weapons. It seems that there was some cargo which they wanted to keep unknown because the truck passed at night. These days [] soldiers on observation duty keep vigil and the truck could not have passed at daytime without being observed.

On July 21, from 8:00 to 12:00 hours there was only drills going on at Alasha post by 5 soldiers and 2 sergeants. In the afternoon a Captain was teaching telephone and communication, as there was a telephone hanging in the porch. who went to rice plantations of [] territory says that there is a 1st. Lt. together with two soldiers in the observation post and on observation duty.

On July 22 in the morning report of train whistles and smoke were noted above the Qaleh (wood collecting [] omchiha "

At 14:00 hours 30 men and women and 15 soldiers were on Alasah Bandsar road. On

~~SECRET~~

25X1

[redacted]
this night two flare rockets of red color were fired.

25X1

[redacted]
On July 21, two Soviet Barges (Barkas) were at a point 300 meters off the shore of Astara gate. [redacted]

25X1

At night roars of planes flying and engine reports are heard and in the morning these are seen from heights. Conditions look normal. 25X1

On this day one ambulance entered the Health unit and it seemed that someone had died as some were heard weeping.

At 8:00 hours of July 21, one officer a first Lt. went up the observation tower and then came down. Qaleh post supports this statement too, but no other such report is received from other posts.

On July 21 at 12:30 four officers with red hats and four with green together with three well armed soldiers walked over from Astara to the Border bridge. They stayed for 20 minutes. Arrival of these ~~four~~ eight officers was quite a cause of concern because they are from combat forces and it seemed that they had arrived recently at the region and soldiers who came with them were also new. [redacted] 25X1

[redacted] These officers ~~xxx~~ left for Astara soon.

25X1

~~SECRET~~

25X1

SECRET

25X1

20:00 hours

July 7, 1958.

Delivery of nine U.S. air force men by Lt. Col. Kuzmin to U. S. Air Attache Col. Baska.

Very important:

25X1

Upon the order of Col. Zarabi, Major Taban

25X1

25X1

[] informed the Soviet Border officer that by the approval [] and []

25X1

Soviet Embassy, [] and American representatives were ready to take delivery of American who were in the plane landed on June 27th. in Soviet Armenia.

25X1

At 18:00 hours the Soviets told us thru Lt. Col Usatov and Lt. Col. Vashutin that they wanted to know who were the official representatives of American and who were

[] supervising the delivery. The Soviets first said that the delivery would be made to Lt. Col. [] Border officer and later they said that Moscow had

25X1

ordered delivery to the representatives of the U. S. Embassy [] and that only Col. Baska and Lt. Col. Dimmick would be needed in the Soviet Union. Thus the

25X1

25X1

Soviet [] commission was formed as follows:

25X1

From the Soviet Side: Lt. Col Kuzmin Border Commander of Lankaran region.

Lt. Col. Vashutin Asst. " " "

Guzelov, interpreter sent from Baku ([] Russian)

25X1

Mohamadov, member []

Ivanov, member.

[redacted] 25X1

Petrov, member (Ivanov and Petrov were from the Soviet Ministry of Foreign affairs and were important persons. [redacted] 25X1

[redacted]
A doctor from Azerbaijan.

Yusefzadeh, English translator.

From the American [redacted] side: 25X1

Col. Baska, U.S. Air Attache [redacted] 25X1

Lt. Col. Dimmick, a doctor.

Captain Salehi, English translator, Border Patrol Command.

Lt. Col Zarabi, Border Commander of Astara.

Mohamadian, interpretor.

At 7:30 of July 7th. [redacted] border bridge and the door was open- 25X1

ed [redacted] to Soviet Astara. Lt. Col. Kuzmin said how the nine U.S. citizens had been when arrested and said that on June 27th, a four engined U.S. Air Force plane was 170 Kilometers in Soviet territory south of the city of Erivan. Soviet fighters ordered the plane to land, which U.S. Plane did not. Later due to repeated threats it did and when it landed in caught fire. Soviets arrested the nine Americans. They were taken for interrogations and also for medical attention needed by them. He added that due to good relations between the Soviet Union and all of the World they are now returned.

Col. Baska then spoke and said that by the permission of U. S. government he is ready to take delivery of these citizen of USA. After a protocol was drawn in both Russian and English it was agreed that the said U.S. citizens would be delivered after lunch.

Col. Kuzmin said that sincetheir arrest Americans had been treated well and placed in the best hotels in Baku where they were given good reception. He said that each one of the prisoners could be questioned. It was agreed that the protocol would be signed after each was asked if [redacted] Americans came to 25X1

SECRET

25X1

[redacted]

1st. Lt. and several others. They were asked by Col. Baska how they had been treated and all said that they had been treated well, and given all possible help. Then the protocol was signed.

Considerable number of pictures were taken. More than one hundred of these. There were so many pictures that the Border Officer of Astara said that we were tired of pictures. When American prisoners were released and were speaking with each other in the yard many pictures were taken. Yusefzadeh the Soviet English interpreter said that this was a very important occasion and pictures ~~will~~ are taken so that they may be published by the press everywhere. He said that this was very important in the relations of the countries of the World and pictures would be sent to all of the papers of the Soviet Union.

Col. Kuzmin said that according to instructions received the sum of Reubles 30,000 had been spent on Americans since their landing and going to Baku. They had also purchased some of the things they needed from shops and restaurants. Col. Baska studied the sum mentioned for some time and then noted in the English text of the protocol that U. S. Government is to pay this sum to cover expenses of the group while in the Soviet Union.

When the plane was forced to land ^{some} ~~some~~ of the ones in it were wounded. they had been given treatment by Soviet doctors. They were in the same uniforms as they had been at the time of their arrest. They were of good morale. Only the Colonel arrested looked thoughtful and was unhappy. It seems that he had to face a grave responsibility and was afraid that he would be court marshalled . [redacted]

25X1

[redacted]

At noon and during the meeting the meeting was under the direction of the two civilians Petrov and Ivanov. They were the ones who gave all the instructions. Col. Baska noted this. These two did not come very close to Col. Baska. Instead it was Lt. Col. Kuzmin [redacted]. The protocol was

25X1

SECRET

25X1

signed in the presence of the wine prisoners. At the table Lt. Col. Kuzmin spoke of World peace and then an American Major spoke. Then [redacted] Border Commander Zarabi spoke. Lunch lasted until 12:20

25X1

On this day the condition was quite interesting in Soviet Astara. Few civilians were in the area [redacted] There were several cars and buses. A group had gathered in Lenin square to see the Americans. On the table there were flags of U.S.A., Soviet Union. [redacted]

25X1

A bus of Zil type brought from Baku which looked like [redacted] Mercedes Benz buses which was very clean and had a driver from Baku took [redacted] the Americans to the border bridge.

25X1

Four Gendarmery jeeps were sent to Astara to take Americans to Rasht from where they would go on U.S. plane. There was a colonel with them. These Jeeps left for Rasht at 16:00 hours. Americans sat in the back seats of the jeeps and it seemed as if they were under arrest.

When the said Americans came to Astara they saw their friends and two who were close friends embraced each other and cried. The American Colonel was very unhappy and he cried also. They wanted to go [redacted] as speedily as possible.

25X1

Cases of Pepsi Cola and Beer were opened and consumed.

25X1

A point of interest:

Delivery was made by Lt. Col. Kumin and to Col. Baska and not to colonel Zarrabi. Some of the Americans were astonished and thought that perhaps Zarabi has certain relations with them and they want to cover it by this act of not paying any attention to him. Also Americans were surprised why they wanted to deliver these at the

SECRET

SECRET

25X1

zone of Lt. Col. Kuzmin in the presence of Zarabi to American officers. This is not yet explained. Perhaps the Soviets want to present Col. Kuzmin, a very clever Soviet official as a lover of peace and a good man. This is to be solved by politicians.

25X1

SECRET